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## —Letters To The Editor

## Censorship

Sir: I should like, if permitted, to comment on your splendid editorial of March 24 titled "False Start," in which you criticized Edward R. Murrow for his attempt to censor what Englishmen should see on their TV.

Not only were you correct in that, but also correct when you said that British viewers are used to stronger and meatier television fare than we Americans are. I should only like to add to that statement of yours that it is a mistake to think that "foreigners" do not know what's going on in this country, and Mr. Murrow's "Harvest of Shame" may have brought it to their eyes, but most of them knew it in their minds.

As to official censorship in this country, a Baltimorean named Donald Downes, who had served in the O.S.S. during the war, wrote a book on his experiences. Three publishing houses accepted his manuscript and then returned it to him; one frankly telling him the firm was afraid of political reprisals. He took it to England, and it was printed under the title of "The Scarlet Thread," a rather revealing book, to be sure, and especially on our wartime relations with Spain.

But we must not be too harsh on the U.S.A., for all governments do this.

Several years ago, a Spanish church dignitary published Volume One of his "El Catolicismo Y La Cruzada De Franco." Immediately the Spanish Government sought to put unmerciful pressure on this honorable churchman, through the church and the French Government, to prevent his publishing any more volumes, of what is perhaps the best and most authoritative study of the political origins of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), a work so replete with documents that no man would question his honesty and scholarship.

Did this cruel pressure stop the dignitary? Not at all. Two days ago I received the second volume that he mailed me from France, where he can thank God for new lives, instead of Spain.

In response to that pressure against him, he wrote out on page 9 of Volume 2, "Se quid lo dicere honeste, se quid veri non dicere." or, in plain English, "neither to tell the truth, nor to tell the truth."

It is not only Mr. Murrow, and

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